

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6377

BILL NUMBER: HB 1311

NOTE PREPARED: May 1, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Apr 29, 2009

SUBJECT: Hearing Aid Assistance Study.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Goodin

FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. C. Lawson

BILL STATUS: Enrolled

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Hearing Aid Assistance Fund and Hearing Aid Assistance Program to be administered by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to assist certain children with payment for hearing aids. The bill annually appropriates money in the fund but does not appropriate any General Fund monies to the fund. The bill also allows the ISDH to create a hearing aid refurbishing program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill establishes the Hearing Aid Assistance Program within the ISDH. The program is established to provide funding to purchase, subsidize, or otherwise assist with the acquisition of hearing aids for hearing-impaired children. The fiscal impact would vary from year to year depending on the number of hearing aids that are needed, the degree to which the expense is not otherwise covered by existing insurance or public programs, and the level of administrative effort devoted to the program. The bill specifies that payment for hearing aids under the program may be made for eligible children only once every three years if the eligible child cannot be reimbursed for the hearing aids under private insurance, a health maintenance organization contract, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, or any other federal assistance program. The bill limits the amount of assistance available to \$1,500 per hearing aid. The bill allows the ISDH to use appropriate internal and external resources to administer the program.

There are about 2,350 hearing-impaired children attending public schools and receiving special education services. The number of children that would require hearing aids to be provided by the program that are not currently eligible for assistance under an existing program is not known.

The bill establishes the nonreverting Hearing Aid Assistance Fund for the purpose of providing hearing aid assistance for eligible children. The fund is to be administered by the ISDH and is comprised of appropriations from the General Fund, gifts, bequests, and other sources of monies. Money in the fund is appropriated annually for the Hearing Aid Assistance Program. The bill does not appropriate General Funds to the Hearing Aid Assistance Fund.

The bill also authorizes the ISDH to establish a refurbishment program for hearing aids. The ISDH may contract for these services.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: ISDH.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.